

What is Claimed is:

1. A path-converted variable optical attenuator comprising:
a transmitting fiber for launching an optical signal through
a transmitting core;

5 a receiving fiber for receiving the optical signal from said
transmitting fiber through a receiving core; and

a mirror having a reflector for obstructing the optical signal
launched from said transmitting core of said transmitting fiber
from proceeding into said receiving core of said receiving fiber,
10 and being displaced in a direction allowing a portion of the
optical signal of said transmitting fiber into said receiving
fiber to attenuate the optical signal.

2. The path-converted variable optical attenuator according
to claim 1, wherein said mirror is linearly displaced in a
15 direction perpendicular to an optical path between said
transmitting fiber and said receiving fiber, wherein said
reflector of said mirror is composed of a side of inclination,
whereby the optical signal launched from said transmitting fiber
and reflected by said reflector of said mirror is reflected in
20 a path that does not coincide with the optical path between said
transmitting fiber and said receiving fiber.

3. The path-converted variable optical attenuator according
to claim 1, further comprising a substrate arranged parallel to
said transmitting fiber, said receiving fiber and said mirror.

4. The path-converted variable optical attenuator according to claim 1, further comprising an MEMS actuator for controlling said mirror to be linearly displaced in a direction perpendicular to an optical path between said transmitting fiber and said receiving fiber.

5. A path-converted variable optical attenuator comprising:
a plurality of transmitting fibers for respectively launching an optical signal through a transmitting core;

a plurality of receiving fibers for respectively receiving the optical signal from said plurality of transmitting fiber through a receiving core; and

a plurality of mirrors for respectively having a reflector for obstructing the optical signal launched from said transmitting core of said plurality of transmitting fiber from proceeding into said receiving core of said plurality of receiving fiber, and being displaced in a direction allowing a portion of the optical signal of said plurality of transmitting fiber into said plurality of receiving fiber to respectively attenuate the optical signal, wherein each of said plurality of transmitting fibers, each of said plurality of receiving fibers and each of said plurality of mirrors constitutes a pair to enable attenuation to each optical signal; and

a semiconductor wafer arranged parallel to said plurality of transmitting fibers, said plurality of receiving fibers and said plurality of mirrors.